



Washington, D.C. 20505

30 October 1981

Honorable William French Smith
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Bill:

I think you should know about a matter which has been the subject of some concern within the Agency and particularly within the Directorate of Operations. This involves former U.S. Attorney Eugene Propper who worked on the Letelier trial and was provided access to a great deal of classified Agency information. Mr. Propper left the Department and, with a coauthor, has written a book on the Letelier case.

I hasten to say that I am not complaining about Mr. Propper personally because he did submit his book for pre-publication review. He was extremely cooperative and has agreed to delete classified information. The issue, of course, transcends Mr. Propper and the Letelier case. It is simply that if we must worry that the Department of Justice attorneys with whom we share classified information later intend to publish books on these cases, this has a chilling effect on the relationship and erodes the trust and confidence which is so necessary.

We would urge you take whatever steps are possible to assist us in this regard. You may feel that it would be useful to express your disapproval of the situation. It could be made clear to your attorneys that it is not appropriate professional conduct for them to write about cases in which they have obtained assistance or classified information from intelligence community agencies. Perhaps those attorneys who feel that they must write books about their experiences could be assigned to cases which do not have an intelligence connection.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey

Director of Central Intelligence

C-157

25X1

C O N F I D E N T I A L